UK government covertly puts us all in a police lineup by using our passport photos for identification by facial recognition

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Rhoda Wilson August 12, 2025

Breaking News

The UK government has secretly been allowing police forces to search over 150 million passport and immigration database photos with Orwellian facial recognition technology.

The number of police mass facial recognition searches in passport and immigration databases is skyrocketing. Documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request reveal that the number of searches of the passport database surged from 2 in 2020 to 417 in 2023, and there was an almost sevenfold increase in searches of the immigration database from 16 in 2023 to 102 in 2024.

By using these databases as giant facial recognition watchlists, we are all at risk not only of profound invasions of privacy but misidentifications and injustice. It is the equivalent of the police secretly putting us all in a lineup of criminal suspects for identification without our knowledge.

In the video below, Big Brother Watch briefly explains what the UK government is surreptitiously doing and why it affects everyone with a passport and, possibly in the future, driving licences.

As one member of the public said, "We're not far off from people being dragged out of their beds in the middle of the night because the computer has said they've done something, which they haven't."

Together with Privacy International, Big Brother Watch are calling for a suspension of facial recognition searches of the passport and immigration databases and has made preparations to pursue legal action against the Home Office and Metropolitan Police. You can learn more about their campaign to stop mass facial recognition surveillance and the associated legal action HERE.

Watch Video At: https://youtu.be/_TCmkV7rKvg

Further reading:

- When cameras take over policing, innocent people pay the price, LBC via Big Brother Watch, 31 July 2025
- Murder prediction tools and WhatsApp arrests, is Black Mirror already here? City AM via Big Brother Watch, 25 April 2025
- As a carer, I'm outraged by the Government's mass bank spying powers, Big Brother Watch, 25 April 2025
- UK Government hushes up its Apple data grab, Unherd via Big Brother Watch, 15 March 2025

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While previously it was a hobby culminating in writing articles for Wikipedia (until things made a drastic and undeniable turn in 2020) and a few books for private consumption, since March 2020 I have become a full-time researcher and writer in reaction to the global takeover that came into full view with the introduction of covid-19. For most of my life, I have tried to raise awareness that a small group of people planned to take over the world for their own benefit. There was no way I was going to sit back quietly and simply let them do it once they made their final move.

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